



What's News

12 Margaretta Street
East Bentleigh 3165
Tel: 03 9563 8139

TERM 4 ISSUE 2

WEDNESDAY 19TH
OCTOBER 2016

 This office is located on the land of the Boonewong people of the Kulin nation.



Principal's Report

A Progressive Year

As I walk around the school and visit classrooms, the progress of so many students is very evident in their increased productive engagement over the year. Even though winter has not allowed for significant use of the new courtyards for some classrooms and has interrupted play times, students appear highly focused on their programs and learning. As the school increasingly implements evidenced based, autism specific teaching, improved student engagement is the expected first outcome. PECS, Hanen training, critical communication skills, modified curriculum, Proloquo2Go, Positive Behaviour Support, Alert Program, structured classrooms and an array of other interventions are all supporting engagement for improving the outcomes for the students at SAS.

Planning for 2017

At this stage we have a projected enrolment of 185 school age students plus 24 children in the Early Education Program for 2017. Accommodating the enrolment growth is currently being discussed with regional office to determine classrooms for 2017. Three extra classrooms would enable us to plan for some space at our facility entitlement for the anticipated additional students. We await advice from the South Eastern Region office regarding our allocation of additional relocatables in each school to allow for additional enrolments.

Staffing

We have an incredibly stable workforce at the school with only one confirmed resignation, one family leave commencing and a teacher deciding not to return from a year's leave. Two high quality teachers were recruited before the end of last term and we are now seeking another two or three. The situation is very similar for teacher assistants. Another fulltime speech pathologist is currently advertised to increase our therapy team to six for next year.

End of Year Celebrations

Each school is again planning different events to celebrate the year with the students and their families with activities similar to last year. The school leaders have aimed for an inclusive celebration that allows for maximum enjoyment reflecting the age and abilities of their respective student cohorts. Hopefully, the parent community will support the events to recognise their child's endeavours and successes this year.

Our celebration of students graduating will, for the second year, be held in the evening at the Bentleigh RSL and promises to be an exceptionally positive event. School Leader Cindy Longley has planned for the evening to be a genuine celebration for each of the six graduands.

Jeff Innes

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

Wednesday 26th (and 2nd & 9th Nov)

Bringing Up Great Kids– Middle School parents

Thursday 20th

School Council Finance

Meeting at 5.45pm

School Council Meeting at 7pm

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 1st

Melbourne Cup Day (public holiday)

Thursday 24th

School Council Finance

Meeting at 5.45pm

School Council Meeting at 7pm

Tuesday 29th

Junior School End of Year Celebration

Wednesday 30th

Senior School End of Year Celebration

DECEMBER

Thursday 1st

Middle School End of Year Celebration

Tuesday 6th December

Graduation Dinner

Thursday 8th December

Last day for 2016 classes

Friday 9th

Curriculum Day-

Students do not attend

Monday 12th

Headstart commences

Tuesday 20th

Last day students attend for 2016

Online Resources

Check our SAS website for further information and booking details for programs and events at: www.southernautistic.vic.edu.au

With respect to the tragedy in Sydney, we understand that this is a shock to the community. Let us be mindful and respectful of the impact this may have on all families. If you feel like you need to talk, please consider contacting Jessica Tang, school social worker at SAS on 9563 8139. Otherwise, you can consider one of these services ...

**Lifeline 131 114
Parent Line 132 289
Beyond Blue 1300 224 636**

End of Year Celebrations: Dates

- Junior School: Tuesday 29th November at 11am
- Middle School: Thursday 1st December at 6pm
- Senior School: Wednesday 30th November at 10am

Further details regarding all celebrations will be sent home to all families in coming weeks.



Junior School News

It is hard to believe we are already into week 3 of term four. The year has flown by! Across the junior school we are so proud of the achievement each and every student has made, and continues to make, at school and at home.

Planning for 2017 & Headstart

We have started our planning for next year. All places in our 2017 Early Education Program have been allocated and confirmed. We are very lucky to offer this wonderful program for families living within the Southern Region of Victoria. The other autism specific schools across the state unfortunately do not offer educational programs for children in the years prior to school age (5 yrs +). It is not uncommon for us to receive enquiries about enrolment into our program from the Eastern, Western and Northern Regions of the state. We continue to have a waitlist for places in the program.

As we approach the end of the year we are beginning to look at supporting the transition of students from our Early Education program into school age-programs, new students entering the Junior School and those moving up to the middle school in 2017.

Well-planned and supported transition programs are vital for our students to ensure a smooth, successful induction into their new class and school year. With this in mind, SAS implements a transition program across the school called "Headstart" at the end and start of each year.

Students move into their 2017 class groups and new classrooms in the last two weeks of term 4. This allows teachers and students to get to know each other and begin to establish class routines.

During the Headstart Program the current Early Education staff utilise the time to meet the incoming EEP students and complete play-based assessments in preparation for their individual programs to be developed.

Children entering our school age program from EEP are invited to be a part of the school-based Headstart Program on their current allocated days from 9.30am-2.15 pm.

Information regarding class groupings and teacher allocations will be available prior to the commencement of the Headstart Program.

Junior School End of year celebration

Planning for the Junior School end of year celebration is underway. It will take place prior to the Headstart program and will be held on Tuesday 29th November. Please keep the date free as we would love to share the celebration together with all the EEP and Junior School families. Details will be sent home next week

Natalie Walsh
Junior School Leader



Middle School News

End of Year Celebrations

Middle School will be celebrating the end of the year, through visually interactive display boards, by using photos and videos of student achievements throughout the year. Parents and family have the opportunity to stroll through the display, watching clips on classroom iPads and marvel at the amazing things students have participated in, in 2016.

A family friendly movie will be screened. The movie title will be decided by the students, through a voting system. A big screen will be hired especially for this event and school beanbags will be provided to help make everybody comfortable. Each family will be asked to bring camping chairs and/or picnic rugs as well.

Before the movie there will be a sausage sizzle, salads and drinks with popcorn free to all.

The date is set for Thursday the 1st of December at 6pm to 8pm.

Middle School students enjoying RDA

Photos removed for privacy reasons.

Denise Van Der Nest
Middle School Leader

Assistant Principal News



Recently, the leadership team has focussed much of its energy towards planning and preparation for the 2017 school year. And with the weeks quickly passing by there is still a lot to do. As always at this time of year, we would like to know the exact number of students we will be providing programs for in the new year. This is always difficult as we continue to be contacted by parents looking for placement for the prep year, parents considering transition from other schools and parents moving from interstate. At the same time, we have our own parents weighing up the options they have before them. Some consider alternate secondary settings, others are in the middle of transitions and deciding whether or not to make that final leap. Never an easy decision.

We are now at the stage where we believe we have a pretty good idea of our students numbers, give or take a few, and know that we require additional facilities and staffing. We always need to be aware that the addition or subtraction of just a few students can make a big difference to our planning. Six additional students would see the school needing to employ an additional teacher and teacher assistant and also find an additional classroom. Things that cannot be done on short notice. A good sized primary school would be able to absorb 6 additional students with little impact.

Next, we will look at the class structures and determine what changes need to be made for 2017. With 20 new EEPs and 24 new junior students, we obviously need a plan to support students to move through the school. Moving from one area of the school to another should not create a major disruption to students. All students continue to be provided with an individual learning plan written to meet their specific needs based on an appropriate curriculum. Our classroom staff put a huge amount of thought and effort into placing the students within groups that will provide the greatest opportunities for all. As you can imagine there are endless combinations of students that could be made. Our challenge is to make 32 groups of 6-8 students that will provide the greatest opportunity for all to learn.

Justin Walsh
Assistant Principal



SAS Community Raffle Raffle drawn on 9 November



Thanks to the many families who have sold their booklet of tickets and sent funds collected back to school. **Extra books are available!**

Prize Update

In the flier that came home with booklets of tickets, it stated that the iPhone 7 prize is a 64 gig product. However the prize iPhone is 32 gig. The raffle ticket information is correct but the flier is not. We apologise for any inconvenience or misunderstanding.

OT Week

On behalf of the OTs at Southern Autistic School, we would like to wish you all a HAPPY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WEEK!

Occupational therapy promotes normal development and stimulates learning in children with specific learning difficulties, such as ASD. An occupational therapist may work with children in any of the following areas:

Prerequisite activities – the child's physical abilities, such as motor control, hand-to-eye coordination, body awareness and sensation

Functional skills – the child's day-to-day living skills, such as eating, writing, going to the toilet, interacting with other children and playground skills

The environment – such as classroom furniture, classroom and schoolyard access, adapted equipment and assistive technology

All students and teachers are invited to enter a photography competition for OT week this year. Entries must fit into any of the four OT categories: *Fine motor, Gross motor, Self care or Play*. Thank you to all the students who have already entered. You can see your photos hanging in the school reception area. Winners will be announced early next week. Many thanks, and GOOD LUCK!

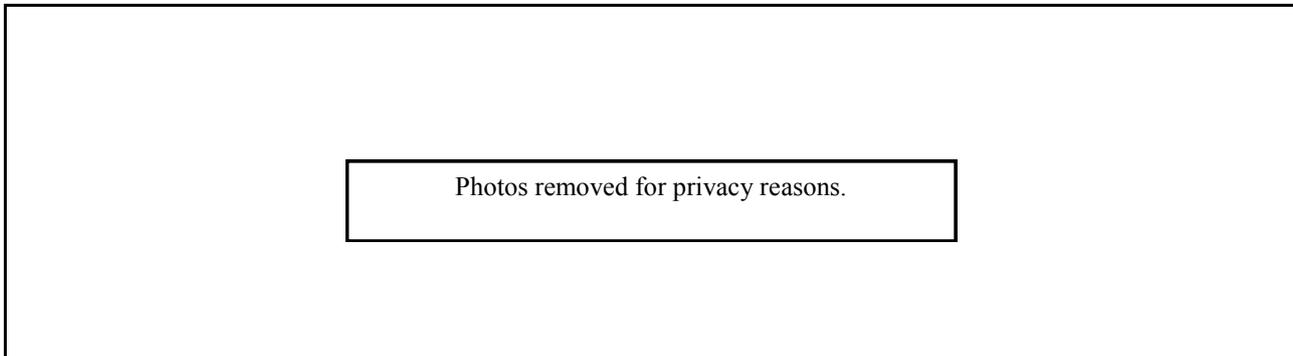
Kate Russell, Haesel Siah and Steph Campbell (occupational therapy team)



Senior School News

Blackwood Camp

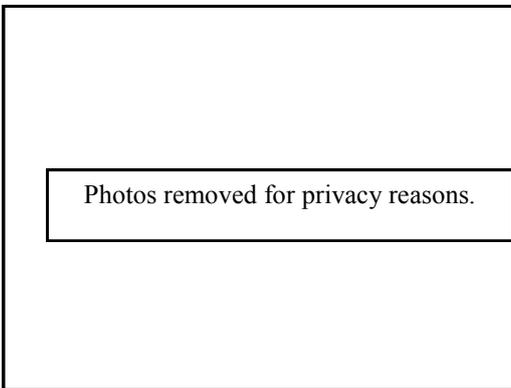
Term 4 is set to be a busy one and started on Day 1 as rooms 4.09 and 4.10 headed off on our final camp for the year at Blackwood. These senior students had an opportunity to visit Sovereign Hill as part of their camp experience and had a great time panning for gold, visiting the underground mine and riding on the coach. Back at Blackwood, the freezing weather did not stop our adventurous campers experiencing everything camp had to offer including the high and low ropes courses, Frisbee golf, archery and an indoor campfire.



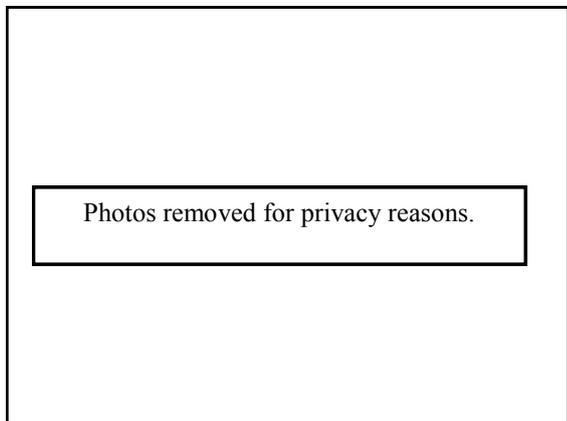
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Sailing

Our Senior students have once again been given an opportunity to sail the bay with *Sailors with disABILITIES*. Rooms 4.07 and 4.08 have already been out on the bay with a lovely group of volunteers and our other classes will be following this term. For more information about *Sailors with disABILITIES* please check out their website <http://www.sailorswithdisabilities.com/>



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Dance Party

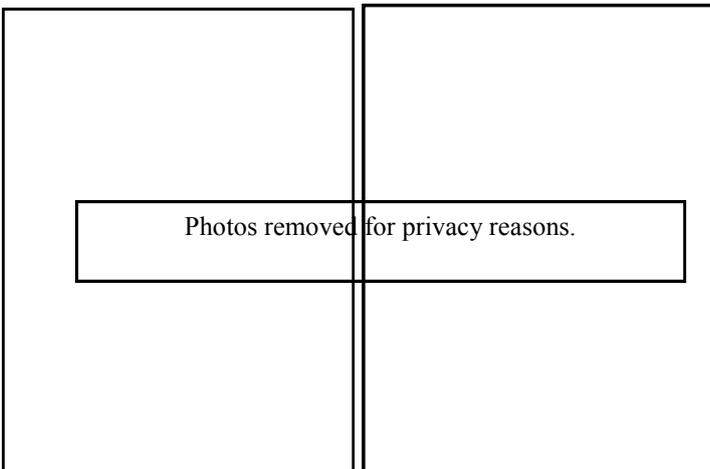
The last Beyond the School Gates Dance Party was held last Friday. Eleven Senior School students stayed back after school to put their dancing gear on and have a quick snack before heading off to make a move on the dance floor.

Thank you to the school staff who volunteered their time to support the students:- Amanda, Catherine, Jade, Kathy, Kerri, Leanne & Marilyn.

Work Experience

One of our year 11 students, David, has begun working with Tony Natoli at Natoli Fresh in Centre Road as part of his work experience program. David has already begun to fit right in with the team and is enjoying his work placement.

If you happen to be in East Bentleigh on a Monday, pop into Natoli Fresh and you might see David hard at work!



Photos removed for privacy reasons.

Cindy Longley
Senior School Leader